REMARKS

The present invention is a wireless communication system, a terminal in a wireless communication system including a plurality of terminals and a group comprising a plurality of wireless terminals forming the group which wirelessly communicate with each other. In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, a plurality of wireless terminals 12 are in wireless communication 14 with each other. The individual wireless terminals of the group include at least one function in addition to performing wireless communication with each other which is common to the plurality of terminals of the group and at least one function which is not common to the individual terminals of the group which is shared with other terminals while in the group. See paragraph [0020] of the Substitute Specification.

The sharing of at least one additional function provided from individual terminals to the group provides the group with at least one additional function so that a total number of available functions to the group is greater than a total number of available functions available to individual terminals of the group when the individual terminals are not in the group.

The functions include software applications, facilities or functions which may become enabled when a group reaches a set size. See paragraph [0022] of the Substitute Specification.

The disclosure stands objected to in view of a hyperlink being contained therein. The Substitute Specification has been amended to delete the hyperlink.

Claims 1-3, 7 and 9-11 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. published application 2002/0037736 A1 (Kawaguchi et al). This ground of rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

With respect to claim 1, which corresponds to claim 19, the Examiner reasons as follows:

> Regarding Claim 1, Kawaguchi teaches a wireless communication system, comprising: a plurality of wireless terminals, each of said wireless terminals including basic functions which are similar plus additional functions which are individual to each terminal; said terminals being in wireless communication with each other; at least some of said wireless terminals forming a group there between, said terminals in said group sharing said additional functions so that the total available functions of the group are greater than the functions of an individual terminal (Abstract, Figure 3, Figure 5, Figure 6, Section 0006 — Section 0012, Section 0046, the basic function that all of the terminals share is the communication function such that there are bi-directional links between the terminals, this enables the broadcasting and reception of messages, the additional functions are the game software and the concert events function which some wireless terminals do not have thus the need to establish a wireless group for access to said additional functions, upon establishment of said wireless group all of the participating wireless terminals will have a shared or common access to all of said additional functions).

The Examiner cites Section 6-12 and Section 46 of the Kawaguchi et al Publication with the Examiner considering the terminals being described in wireless communication with each other to meet the shared function as recited in claim 1.

Claim 19 recites a wireless communication system, comprising: a plurality of wireless terminals, the terminals being in wireless communication with each other to form a group therebetween, individual wireless terminals of the group including at least one function in addition to performing wireless communication with each other, which is common to the individual terminals of the group and at least one function which is not common to individual wireless terminals of the group; and the terminals

while in the group sharing the at least one function which is not common to each of the wireless terminals so that a total number of functions available to the individual terminals of the group, in addition to performing the wireless communication with each other, is greater than a total number of functions available to the individual terminals when the individual terminals are not in the group. Kawaguchi et al do not disclose this relationship.

Claim 19 substantively defines two types of functions in addition to the wireless terminals performing wireless communication with each other which are functions of the individual wireless terminals which are common to the group and at least one function which is not common to individual wireless terminals of the group which is shared with the wireless terminals while in the group so that a total number of functions available to the individual terminals of the group, in addition to performing wireless communication with each other, is greater than a total number of functions available to the individual terminals when the individual terminals are not in the group. There is no counterpart of this subject matter in Kawaguchi et al since the Examiner has relied upon the basic function of all of the terminals being the bidirectional links as being the common function. Claim 19 recites at least one function, in addition to performing wireless communication with each other, which is common to the individual terminals of the group and at least one function which is not common to the individual wireless terminals of the group which prevents the Examiner from relying on the bidirectional link of Kawaguchi et al to read upon the recited functions. Moreover, Kawaguchi et al do not disclose sharing of functions which do not pertain to bidirectional communication. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 19 is patentable over Kawaguchi et al. Dependent claims 20-26 define further

aspects of the wireless communications system defined by claim 19 which are not anticipated by Kawaguchi et al.

Moreover, there is no basis in the record why a person of ordinary skill in the art would be led to modify the teachings of Kawaguchi et al to arrive at the subject matter of claim 19 or the claims dependent therefrom except by impermissible hindsight.

Claim 27, which corresponds to claim 9, recites in a wireless communication system including a plurality of wireless terminals which form a group of terminals in wireless communication, a wireless terminal comprising: a transmitter; a receiver; a communication device for handling transmitted and received wireless messages respectively transmitted by the transmitter and received by the receiver; at least one function, in addition to performing the wireless communication with other terminals of the group, common to individual wireless terminals of the group; and at least one function, which is not common to the individual wireless terminals of the group and is shared while individual terminals are in the group so that the individual wireless terminals of the group have available a greater number of functions, in addition to performing wireless communication, than the individual wireless terminals have while not in the group. Claim 27 is patentable for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 9. Moreover, dependent claim 28, which corresponds to claim 10, is patentable for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 27.

Claims 4-6 and 12-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Kawaguchi et al in view of United States Patent 6,725,500 (Callaway, Jr. et al). This ground of rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Callaway, Jr. et al do not cure the deficiencies noted above with respect to Kawaguchi et al regarding claim 19 and claims 22-24 which correspond to claims 4-6.

Claim 29 recites a group comprising: a plurality of wireless terminals forming the group which wirelessly communicate with each other; one of the wireless terminals of the group being a master terminal which controls interactions between the plurality of terminals of the group; individual wireless terminals of the group having at least one function while in the group, in addition to performing wireless communication, which is common to all wireless terminals of the group; and at least one of the individual terminals of the group having at least one additional function, which is not a function common to the individual terminals of the group and is shared with the individual wireless terminals of the group. This subject matter is patentable for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 19. Callaway, Jr. et al do not cure the deficiencies noted above in that Callaway, Jr. et al do not disclose functions common among the terminals and at least one additional function which is not common among the terminals which is in addition to performing wireless communication.

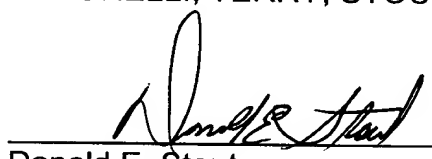
Dependent claims 31-35 further limit claim 29 in a manner which is not rendered obvious by the combined teachings of Kawaguchi et al and Callaway, Jr. et al.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that each of the claims in the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (0171.39605X00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



Donald E. Stout
Registration No. 26,422
(703) 312-6600

Attachments

DES:dlh